GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2540
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
NATIONAL OPEN SCHOOL
BHUMA NAGI REDDY;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any widespread criticism on the conduct of examinations under the open school system;

(b) if so, the malpractices reported in this regard during the last two years alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the fake certificates of National Open School are being sold openly at many places of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to streamline the National Open School and save it from mockery?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): The National Open School has been vested with theauthority to conduct Examinations at Secondary and Senior Secondary level and certify students appearing in them. NOS has informed Government that during the examinations held in April/May, 2000 and April/May 2001, NOS received reports regarding cases of mass copying in some Examination Centres as per details given below:-

	No. of candidates appeared	No. of Examination Centres in the cases of mass-copying	No. of candidates involved in mass- copying	No. of Examination Centres involved in copying
Exams held in April/May 2000	98948	1894		
Secondary Exam	522		37	
	71453		8312	
Sr. Sec. Exam Exams held in April/May 2001	122101	2355		
Secondary		621		39
Exam	93175		3649	
Sr. Sec. Exam				

The following specific steps have been taken by the NOS during the past two years to eradicate mass-copying and other malpractices in the examinations conducted by it:-

(i) Only the accredited institutions of NOS are now fixed asExamination Centres as far as possible, because accredited institutions are accountable to NOS and are also well versed with NOS system.

(ii) After the examinations are over, the Centre Superintendents are directed to despatch Answer Books to the NOS by the same evening.

(iii) Provision of scanned photographs of all the candidates to the Examination Centre to check impersonation.

(iv) Appointment of Team of Observers/Nodal Officer to oversee fair conduct of Exams.

(v) Appointment of External examiners in addition to the internal examiners for the conduct of practical examinations.

(vi) Introduction of the concept of fictitious Roll Numbers for secret evaluation at different evaluation centres from October, 2001 Exams.

(vii) Accreditation of 26 accredited institutions of NOS which were involved in malpractices during the conduct of April/May, 2000 Exam was withdrawn. Eleven other Examination Centres (Non AIs) were also blacklisted.

As a result of improvement measures initiated by the NOS, the total number of candidates involved in mass-copying hascome down from about 6% (10206 out of 170401) in April/May, 2000 examinations to 2.78% (6004 out of 215276) in April/May, 2001 examinations.

(c) to (e): There was a news item in "Enadu" of Andhra Pradeshin October 2000 regarding alleged sale of fake NOS certificatesin Andhra Pradesh. During the calendar year 2001, 525 certificates were referred to NOS for verification ofauthenticity by various institutions/organisations/individuals. Out of these 14 had not been issued by the NOS. All these cases were referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation and subsequent action. One such case registered in 1998 is now under trial.

The NOS has taken following stringent measures to check this menace:-

(i) The certificates now bear the scanned photograph of the candidate taken from the admission form directly so that the genuineness of the certificate is ensured.

(ii) The certificates are printed on NOS logo water marked paper and a hologram is pasted on it.

(iii) NOS mark in invisible ink is also printed on the certificates.

(iv) Press releases as well as advertisements are given in the National newspapers warning the public at large not to fall prey to these unscrupulous elements.